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NEWS AND COMMENTS

The managing editor regrets that for causes some unavoidable and others not, for which he was generally responsible, the account of historical activities in the south does not appear in this number.

A profusely illustrated and carefully prepared article on "The Feurt mounds and village site" by William C. Mills comprises the July, 1917, number of *Ohio archaeological and historical quarterly*, while that of October, 1917, contains, among others, an interesting study of "Henry Bouquet," by J. C. Reeve.

Bulletin number 844 of the University of Wisconsin is the doctor's thesis of John William Oliver, *History of the civil war military pensions, 1861-1885*. This monograph might more properly be called a "Legislative history of the civil war military pensions." Unless some such qualification is assumed one can rightly challenge its failure to penetrate the human background of the heavy economic burden which the civil war imposed upon succeeding generations. As it is, the study presents a fine example of the kind of formal discipline that can be administered to the ambitious candidate for the doctorate who is willing laboriously to grind out the requirements for his degree. Painstaking the study is, without doubt; its chief success perhaps lies in the thorough manner in which it eliminates from the mind of the reader, out of sheer weariness with everything pertaining to pensions, all doubt as to the wisdom of the insurance policy adopted in the present war.

"Penalties of patriotism," an appreciation of Francis Vigo, Pierre Gibault, George Rogers Clark, and Arthur St. Clair by Joseph J. Thompson, is the leading article of the January, 1917, *Journal of the Illinois state historical society*.

Morgan's raid in Indiana by Louis B. Ewbank is number 2, volume 7, of the *Indiana historical society publications*.

Tennessee historical magazine publishes two interesting sets of documents: "Correspondence of John Bell and Willie Mangum, 1835," and "Letters of John Bell to William B. Campbell, 1839-1857."

Fold lore and local color, well flavoured with hero worship, are the materials of J. Edward Murr's "Lincoln in Indiana" in the December, 1917, *Indiana magazine of history*.

Western Pennsylvania historical magazine, to be published quarterly by the Historical society of western Pennsylvania, made its debut as a pamphlet of fifty-five pages, January, 1918. It avows the purpose of preserving, discussing, and disseminating matters of local history, biography, and belles lettres, and of publishing original letters, records, and journals. It begins the "Diary of a young oil speculator" and gives the first entries of the "Common place book of Rev. John Taylor" as well as reprinting from Loudon's *Indian narratives* a most interesting account of the "Trial of Marmachtago" by Judge Hugh Henry Brackenridge.

A full-fledged case of witchcraft, in all the quaint details of seventeenth century English, as recorded in the "Minutes of the council and general court, 1620-1629" is published in the *Virginia magazine of history and biography* along with "Letters of William Byrd, First," and "Virginia gleanings in England."

A valuable reprint of "Ole Bynning's true account of America" makes up the body of the *Minnesota history bulletin* for November, 1917. Theodore C. Blegen is to be congratulated on the careful editing and translation of this rare account of early Norwegian settlement in Illinois.

The Iowa journal of history and politics for January, 1918, has two articles on the part of that state in the civil war: one, by Ivan L. Pollock on "State finances," and the other, by Cyril B. Upham on "Arms and equipment for the Iowa troops."

The state historical society of Iowa is issuing a monthly pamphlet, *Iowa and war*, dealing with military matters connected with the history of Iowa. They are edited by Benjamin F. Shambaugh, and, though in no sense monographic, "are none the less based upon critical studies and reliable sources of information." Under the general title, Cyril B. Upham in the November issue reviews the connection of Iowa with the history of wars, local, national, and international. In December, Earl S. Fullbrook contributes "Sanitary fairs — a method of raising funds for relief work in Iowa during the civil war."

H. A. Trexler discusses the Missouri river as a route to the great northwest in "Missouri-Montana Highways" in the *Missouri historical review*, for January, 1918.

The forty-first annual meeting of the Nebraska state historical society, January 15-16, 1918, struck a refreshingly novel note by spending its entire time on the development of the general topic, "Farmer's movements in Nebraska, 1857-1917."

“The government of Austin’s colony, 1821-1831” by Eugene C. Barker, “The residencia in the Spanish colonies,” by Charles H. Cunningham, and the first installment of “The powers of the commander of the confederate trans-Mississippi department, 1863-1865,” by Florence Elizabeth Holladay appear in the January, 1918, *Southwestern historical quarterly*.

Bulletin number 11, department of geology of the South Dakota school of mines is a fat volume of two hundred and twelve pages in which Cleophas C. O’Harra has listed a critical bibliography of the *Geology and mining interests of the Black Hills region*. There are eleven hundred and eighty-seven titles arranged chronologically from 1814 to 1917.

Opening the west with Lewis and Clark, by Edwin L. Sabin, is a piece of fiction for boys, the *locus* of which is the expedition of Lewis and Clark, constituting an addition to “The trail blazers series.” Such books are obviously not history, but the present volume may well be put into the hands of any healthy boy of twelve or thereabouts to entertain him. It will do him no harm. This is more than can be said for many works of juvenile fiction.

The September-October, 1917, *Magazine of history* serves as usual a heavenly hash of historical by-products.

The “Supplement” to the *American economic review*, December, 1917, contains an elaborate index to subjects, authors, books reviewed and publications of the American economic association, 1886-1910.

The January, 1918, *Military historian and economist* prints the first of a series of articles looking toward the revision of the doctrines of the late Admiral Mahan. “H. H.,” a distinguished English contributor, in “Mahan and his successors” points out with constructive criticism the weaknesses of Mahan’s theories while paying scrupulous deference to the great work that he accomplished.

“Catholicism in the Philippine Islands” by James Alexander Robertson and the “Inquisition in the Philippines,” by Charles H. Cunningham are two valuable contributions that appear in the January, 1918, *Catholic historical review*.

Grace Gardner Griffin has compiled a comprehensive topical bibliography, *Writings on American history, 1915*, which includes all books and articles, however brief, containing anything of value to the history of the United States and British North America. This is the tenth of an annual and continuous series, which, begun in 1906, has been sustained by a group of subscribers consisting of various historical societies and individuals.

Professor William Trimble has published an *Introductory manual for the study and reading of agrarian history*, which plans "to afford references and suggestions for a survey of the general history of agriculture and for a more detailed study of that of the United States." It embodies bibliographical data from both technical agriculturists and historians and will be of great value to those interested in this comparatively new field of history.

Robert Southey's *Life of Nelson* has long been recognized as one of the best biographies of the great English admiral; the present edition, published by Houghton Mifflin, is especially valuable owing to the introduction by Henry Newbolt. This introduction presents in a rather glowing, but still accurate form, the main features of the biography, corrects a few errors in the original text, and amplifies the account of the battle of Trafalgar with a technical description of the naval victory. The eighteen excellent illustrations in color and the footnotes likewise add to the historical worth of the present volume.